

**Remarks**

Applicants have elected the claims of Group I. Substantive examination of the application is requested. Claims 20-23 have been cancelled by this amendment as directed to the non-elected invention, applicants reserve the right to pursue such claims in one or more related applications. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to insert sequence identification numbers in accordance with the sequence listing rules. As no change has been made to the scope of, or to any element of, any remaining claim, no limitation should be read into any claim by this amendment.

If questions exist after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact the applicants' representative at the address or telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



Bretton L. Crockett  
Registration No. 44,632  
Attorney for Applicants  
TRASK BRITT, P.C.  
P. O. Box 2550  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550  
Telephone: (801) 532-1922

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1 and 2 as follows.

1. (Two Times Amended) A method for producing a filamentous bacterium exhibiting reduced branching and fragment septation during growth, said method comprising:

providing a filamentous bacterium, said filamentous bacterium lacking significant endogenous ssgA activity, with the capability of having or expressing heterologous SsgA-activity, which activity, in *Streptomyces griseus*, is encoded by an ssgA gene having at least the sequence:

1 ATGCGCGAGTCGGTTCAAGCAGAGGTATGATGAGCTTCCTCGTCTCCGA

51 GGAGCTCTCGTCCGTATTCCGGTGGAGCTCCGATACGAGGTCGGCGATC

101 CGTATGCCATCCGGATGACGTTCCACCTTCCCGCGATGCCCTGTGACC

151 TGGGCGTTCGGCCGAGCTGCTGCTGGACGGCTAACAGCCCGAGCGG

201 CGACGGCGATGTGCACATCGGCCCGACCGAGCCCGAGGGCCTCGGAGATG

251 TCCACATCCGGCTCCAGGTCGGCGCGACCCTGCGCTGTTCCGGCGGG

301 ACGGCACCGCTGGTGGCGTTCTCGACCGGACGGACAAGCTCGGCCGCT

351 CGGCCAGGAGCACACGCTGGTGACTTCGACGGAACCTGGAGGACGCAC

401 TGGGCCGCATCCTCGCCGAGGAGCAGAACGCCGGCTGA (SEQ ID NO: 1).

2. (Two Times Amended) A method for producing a filamentous bacterium exhibiting enhanced fragmentation during growth, said method comprising:

providing a filamentous bacterium, wherein said filamentous bacterium lacks significant endogenous ssgA activity, with the capability of having or expressing heterologous ssgA-activity, which activity in *Streptomyces Griseus* is encoded by an ssgA gene having the sequence:

1 ATGCGCGAGTCGGTTCAAGCAGAGGTATGATGAGCTTCCTCGTCTCCGA  
51 GGAGCTCTCGTCCGTATTCCGGTGGAGCTCCGATACGAGGTCGGCGATC  
101 CGTATGCCATCCGGATGACGTTCCACCTCCCGCGATGCCCTGTGACC  
151 TGGGCGTTCGGCCGCGAGCTGCTGCTGGACGGGCTAACAGCCGAGCGG  
201 CGACGGCGATGTGCACATCGGCCCGACCGAGCCGAGGGCCTCGAGATG  
251 TCCACATCCGGCTCCAGGTGGCGCGGGACCGTGCCTGCTGGCGGGGG  
301 ACGGCACCGCTGGTGGCGTTCCGACCGGACGGACAAGCTCGTGCCGCT  
351 CGGCCAGGAGCACACGCTGGGTGACTTCGACGGCAACCTGGAGGACGCAC  
401 TGGGCCGCATCCTCGCCGAGGAGCAGAACGCCGGCTGA (SEQ ID NO: 1).